BENGALURU, SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 33 | Min 19 | Humidity 35% Mostly Sunny Sensex 74,332 | Nifty 22,552 | Gold 85,820 | Silver 97,280 | Dollar 87.15 | Euro 94.29 | GBP 112.61

BE COOL

Gentle reminder to keep chilling in Bengaluru as Met dept predicts a temperature high of 35°C over next 48 hours

PAGE 5

DRUG DOSSIERS

A breakdown of city's narcotic cases — type of drugs seized, action taken, trafficking routes and impact on other crimes

PAGE 7

Traffic police data shows North Division with its relatively freer roads is turning out to be accident hotspot with 1,266 cases recorded in 2024 — 'self-accidents' form chunk of mishaps

BIG CRASH THEORY

Yelahanka Main Road, International Airport Road are danger zones with 198 crashes each

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The bustling streets of Bengaluru have long been a battleground for vehicles, pedestrians, and two-wheelers jostling for space. Now, according to traffic data, North Division has reported the highest number of accident cases in the city, with a staggering 1,266 cases recorded till October 2024.

North Division has witnessed frequent collisions, pedestrian knock-downs, and hit-and-run cases.

In 2023, there were 4,784 accident cases among which 871 were fatal, 3,913 were non-fatal, 893 deaths, and 4,052 injured. Among these, 210 were reported as self accidents and 212 were killed in these self accident cases. According to traffic officials, the total number of self accident cases have increased slightly by 3.34%.

"If a driver is distracted or careless, accidents are inevitable. Road conditions contribute only 10-15%, while 68% of accidents are due to poor driver decisions

—MN Sreehari, traffic expert

High-risk zones

North Division Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Siri Gowri DR confirmed that a significant number of accident cases in the region are due to self-inflicted crashes, drunk driving, and speeding. Many motorists, particularly two-wheeler riders, prefer the roads in the North Division as they are relatively free compared to other parts of Bengaluru, making them a popular choice for long drives. Unfortunately, this also leads to a higher frequency of accidents, especially among young riders between the ages of 18 and 25 years. Several of these incidents involve riders losing control, both with and without helmets, resulting in serious injuries or fatalities.

According to traffic officials, major accident hotspots within the North Division include Hebbal (146 cases), Yelahanka Main Road (198 cases), International Airport Road (198 cases). North east division reports 807 cases —

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

Points of no return

Engineering students allegedly pay NGO to score activity points, shattering social purpose of AICTE system

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Sure seems gaining All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) activity points is a cakewalk and engineering students are not burning much of the proverbial midnight oil for its sake. It has emerged that engineering students just have to shell out Rs 850 and wait for one-and-half hours to get the required certificate from a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that is specialised in issuing certificates instantly.

The AICTE activity points system was introduced to ensure that engineering students participate in extracurricular activities, social initiatives, and competitions throughout their four-year course. The idea is that participation in these activities enhances students' leadership, social responsibility, and engagement with society.

Recently, a case surfaced where students at a well-established engineering college in the city exploited this system with the alleged help of an NGO called Connect4Society. The problem arose when the college administration set a deadline, requiring students to submit certificates validating 100 activity points within a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Iftar walk

Experience Fraser Town's vibrant Ramadan food culture with curated walks featuring local delicacies. **Where: Fraser Town, Bengaluru; When: March 9, 16, 23 & 30, 05:15 pm to 08:15 pm**

02 Techno voyage

Immerse in Lewis Fautzi's deep, cosmic techno as he takes over the decks with hypnotic, high-energy sounds. **Where: Koramangala Social; When: March 9, 4:00 pm**

03 Match day

Watch the big game in a lively setting with craft brews, great food, and scenic views of the Kadugodi forest. Enjoy a mix of European, Mediterranean, and local bites while cheering for India. **Where: The Bah, Whitefield; When: March 9**

04 Holi feast

Celebrate the festival of colours with a lavish festive spread, handcrafted beverages, live cooking stations, and an indulgent Holi-themed menu featuring classic sweets and a lot more. **Where: Raj Pavilion, ITC Windsor; When: March 16, 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm**

05 Soul connection

Experience self-discovery at Urban Solace with teachings from spiritual masters, one-on-one sessions, and transformative insights to align with your purpose. **Where: Urban Solace; When: March 9, 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

06 Theatre unveiled

Witness original Kannada theatre at Chiguru, day 3 of Kannada theatre festival, featuring six new productions by top Bengaluru groups. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts; When: March 9, 3:00 am to 7:00 pm**

Old to gold: KSRTC's bus overhaul saves ₹300 cr

Transport dept is refurbishing old buses, extending their lifespan and improving fuel efficiency; other corporations are adopting this initiative

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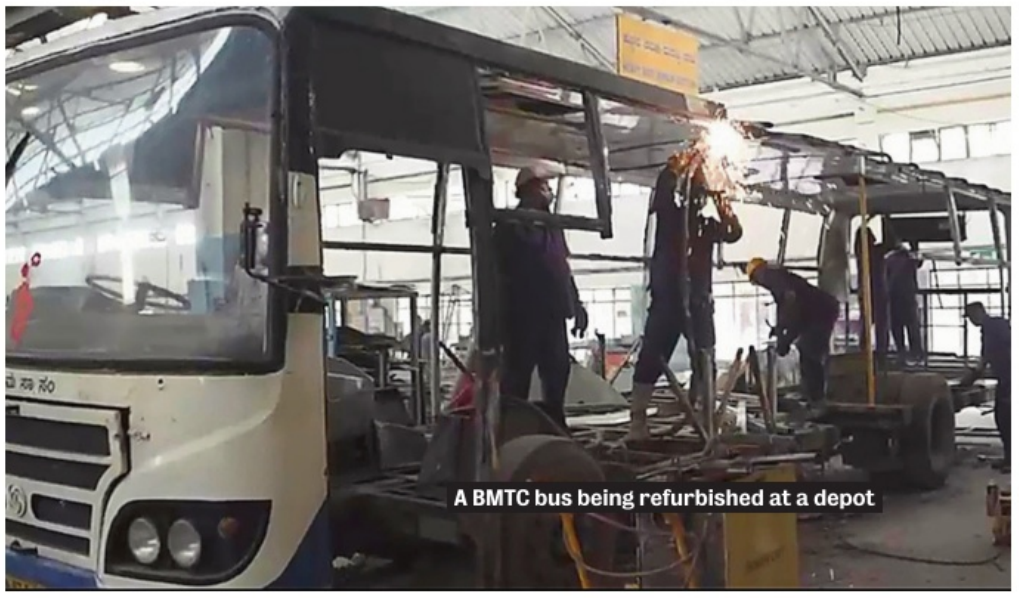

A BMTC bus being refurbished at a depot

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has refurbished old buses that were otherwise destined for scrap, making them roadworthy again. Officials claim this initiative has resulted in estimated savings of Rs 300 crore. Typically, buses are scrapped after completing 10 lakh kilometres or serving for 15 years. However, in an effort to optimise available resources, KSRTC has revitalised 1,314 buses, extending their usability by an additional three to four years.

A KSRTC official said the corporation faced massive financial losses during the COVID-19 lockdown due to a decline in passenger traffic. With limited funds to procure new buses, KSRTC launched a refurbishment program in 2023. Over the past two years, 1,299 red buses and 15 air-conditioned Volvo Airavat Club Class buses have been revamped.

Under central regulations, government-owned vehicles can operate for up to 15 years. Previously, KSRTC would dispose of buses after they completed six lakh kilometres and purchase new ones. However, refurbishing old buses has helped the corporation avoid additional financial strain. By reusing older buses, KSRTC ensures they remain operational for up to 10 lakh kilometres. Buses that are around 11 to 12 years old have been restored and certified fit for public transport use.

Bangalore Mirror
Wheels of transformation
KSRTC renovates 328 old buses for road use; commuters oppose this move

BM has reported earlier about KSRTC's cost-saving plan

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy stated that these refurbished buses have passed all regulatory safety and efficiency standards. While newly purchased buses generally provide a mileage of five kilometres per litre of diesel, the refurbished ones have demonstrated improved fuel efficiency of 5.2 kilometres per litre. These buses are also certified for road safety and are expected to cover approximately one lakh kilometres annually for the next five years.

Refurbished buses improve fuel efficiency to 5.2km per litre, and expected to run one lakh km annually for five years

A KSRTC official added that purchasing a new red bus would cost Rs 43 lakh, while a new Volvo Airavat Club Class bus would cost Rs 1.7 crore. Instead, by refurbishing existing buses, the corporation has avoided immediate procurement costs. The refurbishment cost per red bus is around Rs 3 lakh, whereas the cost for each Volvo bus is Rs 9 lakh. In total, Rs 41 crore has been spent on refurbishing 1,314 buses at KSRTC's regional workshops in Bengaluru (Kengeri) and Hassan.

This initiative has led to substantial cost savings of Rs 300 crore for the corporation. Following KSRTC's success, BMTC, Kalyana Karnataka, and North West Karnataka Road Transport Corporations are adopting similar refurbishment strategies.

Statewide crackdown finds unsafe and poor-quality food

Food and safety authorities have intensified inspections across the state, with extensive sampling and analysis revealing violations in food quality standards. Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said that in January 2025, officials tested 3,608 food samples, of which 26 were found unsafe and 28 were of poor quality. In February, 2,543 samples were collected, with 8 declared unsafe and five categorised as poor quality. Rao said that efforts to curb excessive use of artificial colours in cakes have yielded positive results. Following awareness campaigns for bakery owners on permissible natural and synthetic colours under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, a special drive in January 2025 revealed a significant drop, with only seven samples (1.16%) deemed unsafe. Officials called this a major achievement and plan to continue educating bakery owners before conducting another round of inspections in coming months. — BMB

Women power

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Bangalore Mirror and Vijay Karnataka celebrated the dedication and resilience of women newspaper vendors and distributors by felicitating them on Saturday. These women, who play a crucial role in ensuring the timely delivery of newspapers to households every morning, were recognised for their hard work and perseverance

16 years after flats were built, sewer lines get snapped

BWSSB suddenly remembers permissions not in place, residents say builder to blame

Citizens say builders must take onus of obtaining all permits before handing over flats

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Here is a cautionary tale for homebuyers. Seems like it does not matter how many years you have spent in a building, you can never be sure that it has fulfilled all its official obligations. Going by the problems 16 flat owners on Hosapalya Main Road, HSR Layout, are facing, it is safe to assume homebuyers must think twice before making payment to the builder or developer.

The 16 families have been residing at Vintage Blossom since 2010. All these years, these families have had no hassles as far as sanitary facilities are concerned. Now, the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) assistant engineer sent workers to block the sewer line of the apartment building claiming that the sewer line is illegal as the builder or flat owners did not take permission from the BWSSB.

The flat owners were shocked when the BWSSB issued a notice to them stating that it is blocking the sewage line to the flats as it is illegal. "I bought the flat from the builder in 2010. The builder claimed to have the permission from the BWSSB to connect the sewage line to the UGD. After 15 years, the BWSSB authorities have issued the letter on March 6 and blocked the sewage line," said Madhu Sudhan of Vintage Blossom Residents Welfare Association.

He said the flats were sold to the residents with explicit assurances that all the necessary approvals, including sewage and water connections were duly obtained from the BWSSB and other authorities. "This was a critical factor in our decision to purchase properties here. If any action should be taken, it should be against the builder and certainly not against innocent apartment dwellers," he said.

He said that residents of the apartment complex are urging the BWSSB to facilitate a meeting with all stakeholders to resolve the matter amicably.

Expressing a similar opinion, Shajahan PS, one of the flat owners, said that he bought the flat in 2009. "The builder told me that all permissions were availed of from the competent authority. Now, the BWSSB is blocking the sewage line. The BWSSB officials must solve this problem as early as possible," he said.

Tailor dies in scooter-bus collision

A 45-year-old man lost his life after a private bus collided with his scooter in Kumaraswamy Layout on Friday night.

The deceased, identified as Tyler Shankar, was a tailor by profession and a resident of Bommanahalli. According to the police, the accident occurred around 8 pm in front of a medical store on Kanakapura Road. Shankar was riding his scooter when a private bus rammed into him from behind, causing him to fall and sustain severe injuries.

Locals rushed to his aid, and he was immediately taken to a nearby hospital. However, he succumbed to his injuries on the way. Upon receiving the information, Kumaraswamy Layout Traffic Police visited the accident site, conducted a preliminary investigation, and registered a case. Authorities are examining CCTV footage from the area to determine the exact cause of the accident and identify any negligence on the part of the bus driver. Further action is being taken. **BMB**

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Who axed trees? BBMP to file FIR over illegal felling

Unauthorised tree cutting on Old Airport Road raises alarm, with residents demanding penalties and stronger enforcement of environmental laws

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Two tree stumps on Murugeshpalya Main Road

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Forest Department has been taking measures to plant saplings to ensure greenery in Bengaluru. Many non-governmental organisations and volunteers have also been joining hands with the BBMP Forest Department to plant saplings. The BBMP has been allocating a lot of funds for afforestation. However, some people, either out of ignorance or commercial interest, continue cutting well-grown trees in the city.

Two well-grown trees on Old Airport Road, near Murugeshpalya, were cut down by unknown people. The residents of Murugeshpalya said the trees were a visual treat for them. They informed the BBMP to take stringent action against those responsible for cutting trees.

"I suspect some people might have cut down those trees at night. It is not clear whether they obtained permission from the BBMP Forest Department to cut those trees. The BBMP officials must not only penalise those people responsible for cutting those trees but also make them plant more than 20 saplings as compensation for cutting two trees," said a resident on the condition of anonymity.

Expressing concern over the cutting of two well-grown trees, Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation said that residents are heading into peak summer, yet healthy trees are being axed indiscriminately. "Two well-grown trees have been felled without reason, neither for encroachment nor pedestrian or vehicle safety. Despite having tree protection manuals, we fail to follow them, leading to the loss of avenue trees and discouraging last-mile pedestrian connectivity. There must be stringent fines and strict punishment for such unauthorised acts," Jacob said.

> **"Two well-grown trees have been felled without reason, neither for encroachment nor pedestrian or vehicle safety** – Vinod Jacob, NBF

Describing cutting of trees as an unfortunate and a huge loss to the environment, Asha Peter, a member of Waste Management Group, said that she participated in planting saplings along with other volunteers. "We have planted around 100 saplings and have been nurturing those saplings till they grow into trees. I was shocked to see two well-grown trees disappearing overnight. I want the BBMP Forest Department to act tough against those responsible for cutting those trees," Peter said. "Trees contribute a lot to the environment and it is unfortunate that some people are yet to know the importance of trees," she added.

Meanwhile, BBMP Range Forest Officer Thimmappa said that he had already received a complaint about the cutting of trees. "We have cleared the tree branches to avoid inconvenience to the pedestrians. We will register a first information report (FIR) after going through the CCTV footage," said the RFO.

BWSSB cracks down on defaulters

Water board publishes builder defaulters list, verifying payments, summoning violators and investigating plumber overcharging complaints

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The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will publish the names of builders who collected deposits from apartment residents for Cauvery water connections but failed to remit them. This list will be available on the BWSSB website. Additionally, a three-member committee has been formed to address complaints against plumbers.

Residents' concerns

With an additional 775 MLD of water available under Cauvery Stage 5, BWSSB has launched a connection drive to supply apartments and 110 villages in the city. However, apartment residents have shown a lukewarm response, citing high connection charges and claims that builders had already collected payments for Cauvery water connections but failed to remit them to BWSSB. Addressing these concerns, the board is now verifying builder records and plans to publish a list of defaulters on its website.

Ram Prasath Manohar, BWSSB Chairman, stated, "Some apartment builders have collected money from homebuyers for Cauvery water connections but have not transferred the funds to BWSSB. We will publish their details on our website and instruct them to settle the dues. If they fail to comply, legal action may follow."

Many Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and homeowners claim they had already paid for the water connection at the time of property registration and are unwilling to pay again. To address this, BWSSB will review records dating back to 2008—when obtaining a No Objection Certificate (NOC) became mandatory for building approvals—to identify builders who collected connection fees but failed to remit them.

Bengaluru has 3,722 apartment complexes, of which 1,252 have yet to receive Cauvery water connections. Investigations reveal that around 70% of residents in these apartments had already paid builders for the connections. Once BWSSB gathers complete data, it will summon these builders and direct them to pay the pending amount. If they fail to comply, homebuyers may take legal action against them.

Committee formed to address plumber complaints

BWSSB has received multiple complaints about plumbers overcharging for internal water connections from the Cauvery pipeline to individual homes. In response, the board has formed a three-member committee, including the Chief Engineer and two other officials, to investigate the issue.

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Traffic violation
Rajarajeshwari Nagar

Wrong-side driving at the double road traffic signal junction in Rajarajeshwari Nagar has become a daily issue, creating chaos and safety hazards.

Waste menace
JP Nagar

Once well-planned, Kothanur Cross Road, JP Nagar 7th Phase, now struggles with unchecked garbage dumping, affecting liveability.

Trash dumping
Manjunath Nagar

Trash thrown at the west side of Manjunath Nagar metro station.

No escape from heat! B'luru braces for a 35°C sizzle

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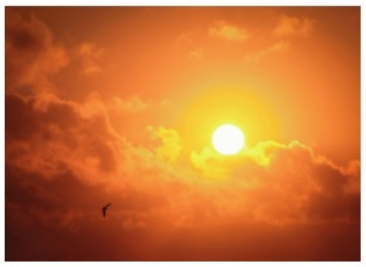
Bengaluru is likely to experience warmer temperatures in the coming days, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting a maximum temperature of 35°C and a minimum of 20°C over the next 48 hours. Dr Rajavel Manickam, Head of LACD at IMD (India Meteorological Department), stated that a partly cloudy sky is expected during this period.

While the temperature remains moderate, the IMD has advised caution, especially for vulnerable groups such as infants, the elderly, and those with chronic health conditions. The department has recommended avoiding direct heat exposure, wearing lightweight and light-coloured cotton clothing, and using hats, clothes, or umbrellas to cover the head when outdoors.

"Meteorological observations indicate that light to moderate southeasterly winds are prevailing over the state in the lower tropospheric levels. Based on real-time data, minimum temperatures in Karnataka varied significantly, ranging from 13°C in Chikkamagaluru, Davangere, and Chintamani to 25°C in coastal Karnataka. In Bengaluru, temperatures at HAL Airport and Kempegowda International Airport were recorded between 17°C and 19°C, while the city itself registered a minimum of 20-21°C. Over the past 24 hours, a notable increase in minimum temperatures was recorded in Haveri (+4.2°C), Bidar (+3.2°C), and Chitradurga (+2.1°C). Similarly, Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport witnessed an appreciable rise in maximum temperature by 2.4°C," Dr Manickam said. It may be noted that on Friday, the city recorded 34.6°C, making it the hottest day of 2025 so far which was 1.9 degrees Celsius more than the normal temperature.



On Friday, the city hit 34.6°C, its hottest day of 2025

As temperatures are expected to remain high, residents are advised to take necessary precautions to stay safe from heat exposure.

How to stay cool and prevent heatstroke

1 Drink plenty of water, even if you don't feel thirsty

2 Dress smartly, and wear light-coloured cotton garments

3 Use an umbrella, hat, or traditional headgear when stepping out

4 Be weather aware, and monitor local weather updates via radio or news channels

5 Take care of vulnerable individuals, and ensure pets and children are not left in parked vehicles

6 Avoid going out between 12 noon and 3 pm when temperatures are at their peak

7 Refrain from strenuous activities in the afternoon

8 Do not go out barefoot as it increases heat absorption

9 Avoid cooking during peak heat hours—ventilate the kitchen properly

10 Limit alcohol, tea, coffee, and sugary drinks, as they cause dehydration

11 Reduce intake of high-protein and stale foods, which can increase body heat

By following these simple yet effective steps, you can minimise the risks associated with extreme heat and stay safe during the summer months.

(Source: National Programme for Climate Change & Human Health)

Cyber crooks' new play: Fake aid, real fraud

Cybercriminals in Bengaluru are using new digital hawala scam to launder stolen money, deceiving victims with false financial support while routing funds through relatives abroad

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Cybercriminals are constantly evolving their methods to deceive people, and the latest scam in Bengaluru involves a sophisticated digital hawala operation linked to Chinese fraudsters. In the latest scam, fraudsters target individuals in Bengaluru whose relatives are abroad. An anonymous individual, posing as a well-wisher, offers financial assistance for medical expenses, children's school fees, or daily needs. However, this supposed benefactor soon disappears. The catch? The money provided is being repaid to the scammer by the victim's relatives in Dubai.

This isn't an NGO or a financial assistance programme—it's a well-orchestrated Chinese cyber fraud that has surfaced in Bengaluru. Cybercriminals have devised this new method to easily transfer illegally acquired money across borders, making it harder for authorities to trace the transactions.

(File photo) Local suspects caught, masterminds still at large

Mysterious operation

A senior police official said, "While hawala networks have been around for a long time, this new variant operated by Chinese fraudsters is proving to be a major challenge for law enforcement. The network operates under anonymous identities, making it difficult to track the source of the scam. Previously, criminals used to transfer scammed money into their accounts before withdrawing or converting it into cryptocurrency to send to foreign handlers. However, a new method has emerged—funds obtained through cyber fraud are now being transferred using an alternate hawala route. So far, authorities have managed to apprehend local account holders involved in the transactions, but the masterminds behind the operation, who are based overseas, remain out of reach."

Involvement of Chinese

Officials warn that a few Chinese are using such fraudulent operations to weaken the financial systems of rival nations. By leveraging local individuals, Chinese fraudsters orchestrate large-scale money laundering operations in India. The victims losing money to these scams are Indian, and even those caught in the fraud network end up being Indian. However, the masterminds—Chinese cybercriminals—remain untouched.

How digital hawala scam works

A senior police official said that the illicit money collected through cyber fraud is funnelled out of India through two primary methods. The first is cryptocurrency conversion, where funds obtained through cyber fraud are directly invested in cryptocurrency and later converted into Chinese currency abroad. The second method involves indirect repayment via middlemen, where fraudsters cover local expenses for unsuspecting individuals and later receive the money back from their relatives abroad, typically through intermediaries in Dubai. In recent times, Chinese cybercriminals have increasingly exploited this second method, making it easier to transfer stolen money out of India without raising suspicion.

> **"While hawala networks have been around for a long time, this new variant operated by Chinese fraudsters is proving to be a major challenge for law enforcement** –Police official

Targeting Indians abroad

A police official added, "Indian citizens seeking employment abroad, especially in Middle Eastern countries, are often lured with job offers or other incentives. Once overseas, they are manipulated into participating in scams, such as fake stock market advice or digital arrests, where they are forced to defraud others. The money stolen through these fraudulent activities is systematically transferred out of India through an organised network. Cybercriminals pretend to assist people in India who need urgent funds. Instead of a legitimate loan or aid, the money provided comes from funds stolen through online fraud. Later, the scammer collects the amount from the borrower's relatives abroad, allowing the illegally acquired money to be laundered without raising suspicion."

CBI probes Ranya Rao

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered an FIR against Sandalwood actress Ranya Rao, who is currently in jail in connection with an illegal gold smuggling case. Acting on the directions of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), the CBI has initiated an investigation to trace the origins of the illegal gold smuggling racket after large-scale operations were uncovered in Delhi, Bengaluru, and Mumbai.

The agency is preparing to question Ranya soon and will build on the findings from the DRI's investigation. According to officials, smugglers have devised a system to bypass airport security checks by falsely claiming connections with influential personalities, including government officials and celebrities. This organised smuggling network has reportedly caused a loss of hundreds of crores to the government.

The CBI's probe, in coordination with the DRI, is expected to further entangle the actress in legal complications. The CBI has also raised suspicions about Ranya's husband, Jatin Hukkeri. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is expected to join the probe, and Jatin is likely to be interrogated soon. –BMB

Blind man smuggles gold

The Air Customs officials at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) arrested a visually impaired passenger for smuggling 3.9 kg of gold worth ₹3.44 crore from Dubai. The accused was caught on March 4, following a tip-off from the intelligence department.

The smuggler had concealed gold jewellery inside his shirt to evade authorities, taking advantage of his disability. However, officials grew suspicious of his behaviour and conducted an inspection, leading to the seizure of the hidden gold.

The customs department has registered a case under the Gold Smuggling Act and produced the accused before the court, which remanded him to judicial custody. Officials are investigating whether the accused acted alone or was part of a larger network. –BMB

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

VANTAGE POINT

This cat on its high perch is nonchalantly watching the activities going on at the ground level

The picture was clicked by reader **T Prakash**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

With 100% as goal, schools go extra mile

BBMP schools step up special coaching and surprise inspections to ensure all students clear SSLC exams

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In an effort to improve the Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) results in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) -run high schools, the education department has introduced special coaching classes.

Special focus is being given to students from Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi-speaking backgrounds to help them achieve better scores.

Targeting 100% pass rate

A BBMP official stated, "The BBMP Education Department aims for a 100% pass rate in its schools. There are 33 high schools under BBMP's jurisdiction, with 7,396 students set to appear for the SSLC exams in the 2024-25 academic year, including 3,145 boys and 4,248 girls." With exams approaching, BBMP officials are conducting inspections in high schools and will soon extend visits to colleges. "To improve academic performance, special classes are being held in all BBMP schools for three hours daily, both in the morning and evening," the official added.

Surprise inspections to monitor quality

BBMP's Special Commissioner (Horticulture, Forest, Lakes, and Education), Preeti Gehlot, recently conducted surprise inspections at schools in Laggere, Shakti Ganapathi Nagar, Vijayanagar, and Magadi Road. She evaluated teaching quality and reviewed initiatives aimed at improving student engagement.

"We have already implemented key measures to enhance student performance this year," Gehlot said.

Teachers have been informed about a structured plan. "Teachers have been instructed to follow a structured teaching plan. Given the high number of Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi-speaking students in BBMP schools, special attention is being provided to support their academic success."

Kids performing at the 'Chinnara Chilipili Kalarava' organised by BBMP's Education department recently

"To improve academic performance, special classes are being held in all BBMP schools for three hours daily, both in the morning and evening –BBMP official

DID YOU KNOW?

A newly discovered cache of 27 carved and sharpened bones from elephants and hippos found in Tanzania's Olduvai Gorge site pushes back the date for ancient bone tool use by around 1 million years. Researchers know that early people made simple tools from stones as early as 3.3 million years ago. The new discovery, published Wednesday in Nature, reveals that ancient humans "had rather more complex tool kits than previously we thought," incorporating a variety of materials, said William Harcourt-Smith, a paleoanthropologist at the American Museum of Natural History, who was not involved in the research.

The well-preserved bone tools, measuring up to around 16 inches (40 centimeters), were likely made by breaking off the thick ends of leg bones and using a stone to knock off flakes from the remaining bone shaft. This technique was used to create one sharpened edge and one pointed tip, said study co-author Ignacio de la Torre, a researcher at the Spanish National Research Council.

The bone tools were "probably used as a hand axe" – a handheld blade that's not mounted on a stick – for butchering dead animals, he said. — AP

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

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Images showing Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma playing holi are AI-generated

PTI Fact Check

Three purported images of Indian cricketer Virat Kohli along with his wife and Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma were recently shared on social media. Users claimed that these images were from their Holi celebrations this year. However, an investigation by the PTI Fact Check Desk found that the photos shared on social media were fake. AI-generated pictures were shared on social media as real with a false claim.

Claim: A Facebook user going by the name "Cric News" shared multiple images on March 2, featuring Indian cricketer Virat Kohli along with his wife and Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma. The images allegedly showed the celebrity duo playing Holi.

Investigation: The Desk ran all three images shared in the social media post through Google Lens; however, the search results did not lead to any credible report that could corroborate the authenticity or origin of the images.

In the next part of the investigation, the Desk carefully analyzed the images and found multiple discrepancies suggesting that they were digitally altered or AI-generated. For instance, the background in all three images appeared visibly blurred, and the hands of the duo seen in the first and third images looked distorted.

Below is a screenshot highlighting the same. (PIC 2) Next, taking cues from the above-generated inputs, the Desk ran the images one by one through Hive Moderation, an AI detection tool, which suggested a substantial presence of AI-generated or deepfake content in all three images. Below, a combination image has been attached highlighting the results of the AI detection in the images. (PIC 3)

Subsequently, the Desk concluded that the images of Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma from

their Holi celebrations this year are AI-generated.

Claim: The images show Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma celebrating Holi this year.

Fact: The images are AI-generated.

CONCLUSION

A social media user shared three purported images of Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma, showing them celebrating Holi this year. However, the Desk found in its investigation that the photos of the celebrity duo were AI-generated and were shared on social media as real with a false claim.

The story was originally published by ptinews.com (https://www.ptinews.com/fact-detail/Images-showing-Virat-Kohli-and-Anushka-Sharma-playing-holi-are-AI-generated%3B-details-inside/2349333) and republished by Bangalore Mirror as part of the Shakti Collective.

THE SUNDAY READ

High & low

We take a look at the trends as city battles narcotics menace

Atiya Firdos
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru, often regarded as India's Silicon Valley, is grappling with a persistent issue of drug abuse that not only threatens public health but also contributes to rising crime rates. While law enforcement agencies have intensified crackdowns on drug peddlers and users, the illegal sale and use of narcotics remains a challenge, especially among the youth.

The year 2023 saw an alarming spike in drug-related cases, with the police registering 3,443 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. However, 2024 witnessed a sharp decline, with only 510 cases recorded so far, largely due to stricter enforcement and coordinated police operations.

Drug abuse is not just a legal concern but a social crisis, impacting families, public safety, and overall law and order in the city. Officials highlight that drug addiction among young individuals has led to reckless behaviour such as wheeling, violent assaults, thefts, and even homicides under intoxication. Bengaluru police have been actively targeting supply chains, leading to multiple arrests and significant drug seizures.

A detailed dive into

- In 2023, 3,443 cases under the NDPS Act were registered.
- In 2024, there was a significant drop, with 510 cases recorded.

Seized quantities

- Ganja – 1,851.198 kg (₹24.30 crore)
- Ganja Oil – 1.217 kg (₹0.36 crore)
- Opium – 17.46 kg (₹0.34 crore)
- Charas – 3.824 kg (₹0.53 crore)
- MDMA – 35.709 kg (Worth ₹49.88 Cr)
- Cocaine – 3.942 kg (₹5.84 Cr)
- Ecstasy/Yaba/Tablets – 15,448 tablets (Worth ₹8.75 Cr)
- LSD Strips – 3,770 strips (Worth₹2.20 Cr)
- Heroin – 0.854 kgs (Worth ₹1.07 crore)

Other drugs seized include Brown Sugar, Hashish, Hashish Oil, Amphetamine, Methaqualone worth ₹5.38 crore, totalling up to ₹98.69 crore worth of drugs seized by the city police in 2024.

Trafficking routes:

- Domestic supply: Ganja sourced from Bihar & Odisha and transported via land routes. Also includes Assam, Manipur and other northeastern states.
- International supply: MDMA, Cocaine, and LSD are smuggled from the US and Europe.
- Postal & courier networks: Traffickers are increasingly using postal services to smuggle drugs into Bengaluru. These drugs are also trafficked through trains.

Types of drugs seized (The following drug trend is as of 2024)

Ganja	350 cases
MDMA	95 cases
Cocaine	11 cases
Opium	9 cases
Ecstasy, Yaba & Tablets	7 cases
LSD Strips	3 cases
Charas	4 cases

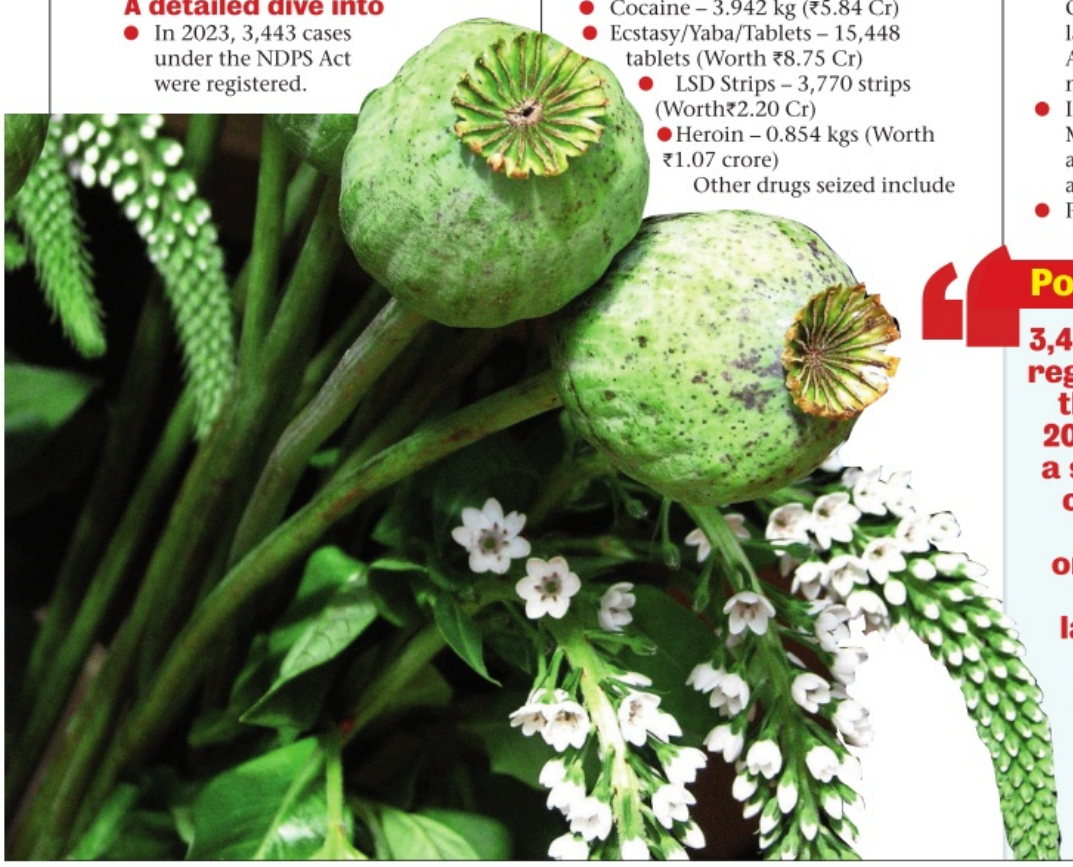
Other drugs include Ganja Oil, Brown Sugar, Heroin, Hashish, Hashish Oil, Amphetamine, Methaqualone.

Youth involvement & crime impact

- High youth involvement in 2023, with minors under 18 linked to drug cases.
- Drug abuse is also seen among those who perform wheeling, traffic violations, minors booked under Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act cases and also lead to fights, assaults & murders due to intoxication

Sharp decline in cases

- 510 cases in 2024 compared to 3,443 in 2023.
- Reduction due to strict enforcement & crackdowns by Bengaluru police.
- Experts suggest that alongside law enforcement, rehabilitation, education, and community-driven interventions are equally important to curb drug abuse and prevent further damage to society.



Police actions (2024)

3,443 cases were registered under the NDPS Act; 2024 witnessed a sharp decline compared to this, with only 510 cases recorded, largely due to stricter enforcement and coordinated police operations

- Total cases – 510
- Total Arrests: 633 Indians, 61 Foreigners
- Highest arrests: against Ganja-related abuse: 487 individuals
- Cases against consumer: 13 cases
- Consumers arrested: 19 individuals
- Total drug seizures value: ₹98.69 crore, 1,923.374 kg of total drugs seized

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Govt tightens hiring tests to curb exam fraud

Karnataka's recruitment exams are getting stricter with new transparency measures, letting candidates verify their answer sheets online; officials say this move will curb malpractice and boost credibility

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

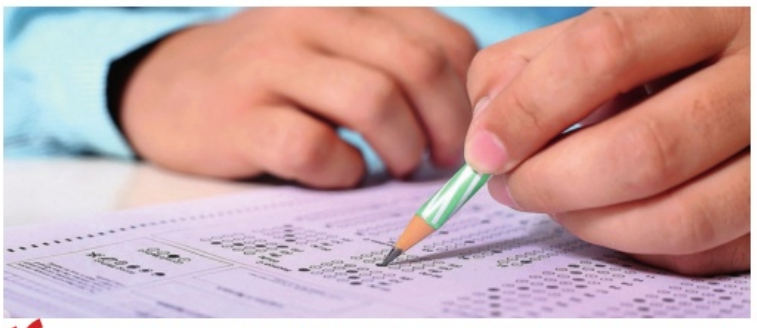
After coming under flak, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has introduced innovative measures to eliminate malpractices in government recruitment exams. To enhance credibility and address concerns about irregularities, KEA has decided to upload Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) sheets on its official website, allowing candidates to access and verify their answer sheets.

A KEA official said, "Allegations have often surfaced regarding manipulations in recruitment processes, where it was claimed that OMR sheets were left blank and later filed fraudulently. To counter such accusations and build confidence among aspirants, KEA has implemented stringent reforms, ensuring that all responses recorded during the examination remain untampered.

The new system will be implemented in the upcoming exams. Candidates will now be required to mark all five options in multiple-choice questions.

This reform is aimed at preventing any post-exam alterations. Additionally, exam invigilators will ensure that candidates fully complete their answer sheets before submission. KEA has mandated strict adherence to this rule to maintain integrity in the recruitment process."

Furthermore, candidates will be able to download and review their OMR sheets online after the examination. Traditionally, candidates were provided with a carbon copy of their answer sheet, but suspicions over possible tampering led KEA to introduce this online verification mechanism. This initiative aims to enhance transparency and address concerns raised by candidates.



"Allegations have often surfaced regarding manipulations in recruitment processes, where it was claimed that OMR sheets were left blank and later filed fraudulently.

According to KEA Executive Director H Prasanna, a pilot project was conducted to test the feasibility of uploading OMR sheets online. This was successfully implemented during a recent competitive examination for teachers, where over two lakh candidates participated. The process was found to be effective in maintaining fairness.

"KEA is responsible for conducting competitive exams for various government job vacancies.

The authority has now decided to extend this reform to all future recruitment exams, including the upcoming Karnataka Legislative Council recruitment exam scheduled for this month. To manage the increased data load, KEA is upgrading its scanning and online uploading systems.

The new process ensures that OMR sheets will be uploaded within two to three days after the exam, allowing candidates to cross-check their responses without delays," an official added.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, (old Name) NURIKA TAMANG W/o NO. JC-414857M, NB SUB SUMIT RAI Resident of Vill- Kothi Dara, PO-Rangbull, Teh/Dist-Darjeeling, State- West Bengal, 734123, have changed my name from (old Name) NURIKA TAMANG to (New Name) NURIKA TAMANG (RAI) vide affidavit dated 06.03.2028 sworn before notary Shivakumar M N, Bengaluru

I, Mistry Vimalkumar currently residing at Flat No 3, 7th Floor, C Block, DLF Maiden Heights, Rajapura Village, Jigani, Bangalore-562106, in my some documents my father name has been wrongly written as Thakorbhai Mistry, Thakorbhai Jagobhai Prajapati and Thakorbhai Prajapati, but his actual and correct name is Prajapati Thakorbhai Jagubhai

I, Narendra Halubha Chavda R/o E904, NCC Meadows 2, Yelahanka Dodhbalapur Road, Bengaluru - 560064, changed my name from Narendrasinh Halubha Chavda to Narendra Halubha Chavda for all future purposes.

I, PUNITH S, S/o SIddaraju C.B R/at No.70, 4th Main, 4th Cross, Near Matha School, Aadarsha Nagar, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore-560072 have changed my name to PUNITH C.S, vide affidavit dated: 07.03.2025 sworn before notary Jalandhara, Bangalore.

I, Karkihalli Shiddappa Karkihalli Anandappa, s/o Karkihalli Anandappa, R/o No-43 Kurubara Oni Byalalu Hagaribommanahalli Bellary-583212 have changed my name to Karkihalli Shiddappa for all Purposes.

I Lalita Kalra W/o Dalip Kalra Residing At,No 24/26,Mohini Nivas,Central Street, Railway Parallel Road,Kumara Park West, Bengaluru 560020 have changed my name to Lalitha Devi for all purposes.

I Ramesha s/o Hanumanthappa R/o #261,3rd Block 4th Stage 17th C Cross Basaveshwaranagar B'luru-560079 have changed my name to Ramesh H for all purposes.

I, Parveen Taj W/O Abdul Azeem R/O 53/1, Vinobha Nagar, KG Halli, B'luru-45 have changed my name to Parveen for all purposes.

Behavioural changes key to curbing accidents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

These areas experience heavy vehicular movement round the clock, with speeding, reckless lane-cutting, and poor adherence to traffic rules contributing to the high accident rate.

Accident breakdown

The West Division recorded the second-highest number of accident cases after the North Division, with a total of 941 cases. Within the West Division, the Central Sub-Division reported 264 cases, the West Sub-Division accounted for 373 cases, and the Vijayanagar Sub-Division recorded 304 cases.

Following closely, the South Division reported 936 accident cases. Among its sub-divisions, the South-East Sub-Division—which includes areas such as Adugodi, Madiwala, Mico Layout, and Hulimavu—recorded 263 cases. The South Sub-Division reported 363 cases, while the HSR Layout Sub-Division also reported 263 cases.

Meanwhile, the East Division registered 826 accident cases. Within this division, the East Sub-Division recorded 300 cases, whereas the Whitefield Sub-Division reported a significantly higher number, with 526 cases.

'Accidents not accidental'

Prof MN Sreehari, advisor to the government of Karnataka for traffic, transportation and infrastructure, says, "Accidents are not accidental; they are man-made. A skilled driver can prevent them, but lack of caution, overconfidence, and rash driving often lead to disasters. Youngsters, lost in imagination, sometimes ignore the road, leading to reckless decisions."

Recently a speeding car fatally hit two women standing by the roadside near the Byatarayanapura junction on Bangalore-Bellary Road, leading to a series of accidents.

"Most accidents don't happen due to road conditions but because of drivers' choices. If a driver is distracted or careless, accidents are inevitable. Road conditions contribute only 10-15%, while 68% of accidents are due to poor driver decisions," says Sreehari.

In response to the rising numbers, the traffic department has ramped up efforts to curb violations. Measures such as increased patrolling, installation of speed cameras, and awareness campaigns on road safety are being implemented.

While these steps may offer some respite, road safety experts stress that behavioural changes among drivers and pedestrians are equally crucial. "The key to preventing accidents lies in discipline—following traffic rules, being cautious, and ensuring proper lane divisions to avoid collisions. Without driver responsibility, reducing road accidents remains a challenge," said an expert.

'Programme designed for students to give back to society'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

few days. Many students, who had not earned enough points over the years, turned to quick-fix solutions.

It is alleged that Connect4-Society offered students 120 activity points in just 1.30 hours by making them pay Rs 850. Normally, 4 hours of activity equals 1 point, meaning that students should ideally put in 80-90 hours for 20 points. However, this system was allegedly bypassed. The NGO has denied this claim, saying only 35 students have been given the activity points.

It is believed that around 100 students took advantage of this opportunity to instantly obtain their certificates without genuine participation. There are suspicions that certain faculty members may be complicit in approving these fraudulent certificates.

Expressing concern over the engineering students getting AICTE activity points, Amith Amarnath, founder of Youth For Parivarthan, said that this is a critical issue that requires immediate attention from educational institutions, AICTE, and policymakers. "The AICTE program was designed to inspire students to give back to society, and it is our collective responsibility to preserve its integrity and ensure that it serves its true purpose," said Amarnath.

Expressing similar opinion, Dhruv Nagarajan Koundinya, an active citizen and a student of BMS College of Engineering described it as a serious case of exploitation where students, NGOs, and possibly faculty members are complicit in defeating the purpose of the AICTE activity points system.

"A systemic change is needed to prevent such unethical practices and ensure that participation remains meaningful and fair," said Koundinya.

Terming this instance as a fraud, Professor Ashish Verma emphasised the need for integrity among the students as well as NGOs involved. "The activity points are meant to make students participate in social and other activities. The practice of engineering students availing of AICTE activity points without participating in activities needs to be stopped immediately," said Prof. Verma.

However, Harish Gowda HS, Secretary Connect4Society told BM that 35 engineering students have availed of activity points certificate. "We registered the Connect For Society six months ago and began organising programmes three months ago. We gave certificates to some students for 100 activity points, 50 activity points certificates to some students and 40 activity points certificates to others," said Gowda.

Security check
Authorities in two Russian regions have blocked the Telegram messenger over security fears

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AI doesn't really 'learn' — knowing why will help you use it more responsibly

Lesson not learnt

What if we told you that artificial intelligence (AI) systems such as ChatGPT don't actually learn? Many people we talk to are genuinely surprised to hear this.

Even AI systems themselves will often tell you confidently that they are learning systems. Many reports and even academic papers say the same. But this is due to a misconception – or rather a loose understanding of what we mean by "learning" in AI. Yet, understanding precisely how and when AI systems learn (and when they don't) will make you a more productive and responsible user of AI.

Not like humans do

Many misconceptions around AI stem from using words that have a certain meaning when applied to humans, such as learning. We know how humans learn, because we do it all the time. We have experiences; we do something that fails; we encounter something new; we read something surprising; and thus we remember, we update or change the way we do things.

This is not how AI systems learn. There are two main differences. Firstly, AI systems do not learn from any specific experiences, which would allow them to understand things the way we humans do. Rather they "learn" by encoding patterns from vast amounts data – using mathematics alone. This happens during the training process, when they are built. Take large language models, such as GPT-4, the technology that powers ChatGPT. In a nutshell, it learns by encoding mathematical relationships between words (actually, tokens), with the aim to make predictions about what text goes with what other text. These relationships are extracted from vast amounts of data and encoded during a computationally intensive training phase.

Most AI systems such as ChatGPT, do not learn once they are built. AI systems don't learn at all – training is just how they're built, it's not how they work

This form of "learning" is obviously very different to how humans learn.

It has certain downsides in that AI often struggles with simple commonsense knowledge about the world that humans naturally learn by just living in the world.

But AI training is also incredibly powerful, because large language models have "seen" text at a scale far beyond what any human can comprehend. That's why these systems are so useful with language-based tasks, such as writing, summarising, coding, or conversing.

Learning stops here

Most AI systems that most people use, such as ChatGPT, also do not learn once they are built. You could say AI systems don't learn at all – training is just how they're built, it's not how they work. The "P" in GPT stands for "pre-trained".

In technical terms, AI systems such as ChatGPT only engage in "training-time learning", as part of their development, not in "run-time learning". Systems that learn as they go do exist. But they are confined to a single task, for example your Netflix algorithm recommending what to watch. Once it's done, it's done, as the saying goes.

Being "pre-trained" means large language models are always stuck in time. Any updates to their training data require highly costly retraining, or at least so-called fine-tuning for smaller adjustments.

That means ChatGPT does not learn from your prompts on an ongoing basis. And out of the box, a large language model does not remember anything. It holds in its memory only whatever occurs in a single chat session. There are ways around this, such as storing information about the user, but they are achieved at the application level.

What does this mean?

First, be aware of what you get from your AI assistant. Learning from text data means systems such as ChatGPT are language models, not knowledge models. While it is truly amazing how much knowledge gets encoded via the mathematical training process, these models are not always reliable when asked knowledge questions.

Their real strength is working with language. And don't be surprised when responses contain outdated information given they are frozen in time, or that ChatGPT does not remember any facts you tell it. The good news is AI developers have come up with some clever workarounds. For example, some versions of ChatGPT are now connected to the internet. To provide you with more timely information they might perform a web search and insert the result into your prompt before generating the response. Another workaround is that AI systems can now remember things about you to personalise their responses.Let the AI assist you. But make sure you do the learning, prompt by prompt.

(By Kai Riemer and Sandra Peter, University of Sydney, The Conversation)

Trump says working to end US government "war on Crypto"

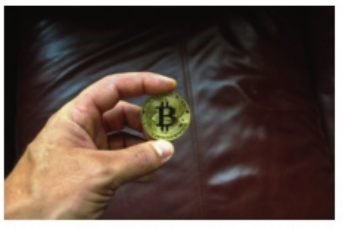
Following the decision to create a 'Strategic Bitcoin Reserve', United States President Donald Trump said that he's working to end the government's "war on crypto".

Addressing the Crypto Summit at the White House, Donald Trump heavily criticised former President Joe Biden's stringent actions against cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin and expressed a more welcoming approach by his administration.

"My administration is working to end the federal bureaucracies' war on crypto which was really going pretty wildly during Biden until the election came about. 5 months before the elections he became a big fan because he heard how many people love it and respect it but i guess it didn't work out for him."

Speaking about the signing of the executive order to form a 'Strategic Bitcoin Reserve' on Thursday, Trump informed that the federal government is the "largest" holder of Bitcoin in the US.

"Last year, I promised to make America the Bitcoin superpower of the world and the crypto capital of the planet, and we're taking historic action to deliver on that promise. Yesterday, I signed an executive order officially creating our strategic Bitcoin reserve." The federal government is already amongst the largest holder of Bitcoin, one of the largest holders in the world. These existing holdings formed the foundation of the new reserve." Trump said.



Trump further called the Biden administration's decision to sell Bitcoins "foolish"

"Unfortunately, in recent years, the US government has foolishly sold tens of thousands of additional Bitcoin that was worth billions and billions of dollars had they not sold them, but they did sell them, mostly during the Biden administration," Trump said. **ANI**

BITS & BYTES

GOOGLE MAY RETAIN AI

The US Department of Justice on Friday dropped a proposal to force Alphabet's Google to sell its investments in artificial intelligence companies, including OpenAI competitor Anthropic, to boost competition in online search.

The DOJ still seeks a court order requiring Google to sell its Chrome browser and take other measures aimed at addressing what a judge said was Google's illegal search monopoly, according to court papers filed in Washington.

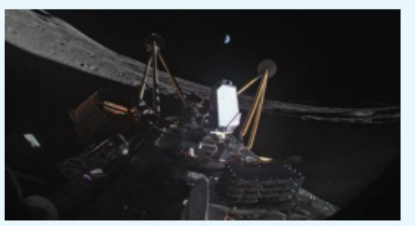
Google holds a minority stake worth billions of dollars in Anthropic. **Reuters**

ALIVECOR PATENT

Apple convinced a US appeals court on Friday to uphold its win against medical device maker AliveCor in a patent dispute that could have led to an import ban on Apple Watches.

The US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit affirmed the invalidity of AliveCor heart-rate monitoring patents that the company had accused Apple of infringing, negating a U.S. trade tribunal's ruling that Apple had violated AliveCor's rights. An AliveCor spokesperson said the company was "deeply disappointed" by the rulings and is exploring "all available legal options, including potential appeals." They said the decision does not affect AliveCor's ongoing business. **Reuters**

ATHENA DOWN



The mission of US company Intuitive Machines' lunar lander Athena has come to an early end because the lander tipped over while touching down on the Moon, and its battery quickly drained, the company said.

According to NASA, the uncrewed lander landed at a region near the Moon's South Pole at about 11:30 am. Eastern Time Thursday, more than 400 mt from its intended landing site. The mission, codenamed IM-2, landed closer to the lunar South Pole than any previous lander, said NASA. Intuitive Machines said images collected later confirmed the lander was on its side, preventing it from fully operating NASA's lunar drill. **IANS**

Player of the Match, I would go for an all-rounder. I'll say Axar Patel or Ravindra Jadeja from India. From New Zealand, I think that Glenn Phillips has something up
—Ravi Shastri, former head coach

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CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY

NEW RIVALS MEET

India faces New Zealand at Champions Trophy final

India faces New Zealand in the Champions Trophy final Sunday in what can be deemed a new-age rivalry.

While India's clashes against Pakistan, Australia and England have attracted more attention, this matchup with the Black Caps has slowly been bubbling under the surface.

The 2024-25 season saw this new-age rivalry come to a proper flash point.

New Zealand beat India 3-0 in a test series in its own backyard, a feat never registered before. India went on to lose in Australia. Both series defeats cost India a spot in the World Test Championship final. It has only gained little redemption in reaching the Champions Trophy final here.

Last fall's test series is vital on another account. Mitchell Santner led New Zealand's bowling attack with sizzling performances in Pune and Mumbai, as India got stumped against spin at home.

Santner is now the Black Caps' ODI skipper and has led them to the final — where spin is again expected to hold the key. The square at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium has progressively slowed down. Australia's 264 in the first semifinal was the highest first innings' total here in the Champions Trophy — chased down by India with 11 balls to spare.

When India and New Zealand clashed here in their group game last Sunday, the ball hardly bounced up more than the knee in the second innings. Spin, thus, will play a key role in determining the outcome of this final.

Rohit Sharma started the tournament with three spinners and brought in Varun Chakravarthy with Mohammed Shami and all-rounder Hardik Pandya as the only pace options.

It has worked well — Chakravarthy took seven wickets in two games; Indian spinners have picked 14 out of 20 wickets against New Zealand and Australia enroute to the final.

"He took 5-42 against us, so we expect him to play (again). He's a big threat in the game, so we will be putting our thinking caps on how we nullify that and how we can still score runs against him," New Zealand coach Gary Stead said Friday.

With spin taking precedence on a two-paced surface, certain batters from both sides will hold the spotlight.

Virat Kohli (217 runs in four matches) and Kane Williamson (189 runs in four matches) will anchor their sides with strike rotation. Rachin Ravindra (226 runs in three matches) and Shreyas Iyer (195 runs in four matches) have higher strike rates, and their aggression will be key in setting up the innings.

Nearly 25 years ago, Chris Cairns' well-timed century in Nairobi powered New Zealand past India to win the ICC Knock Out Trophy, which later was renamed the Champions Trophy.

It remains the only limited-overs ICC trophy in New Zealand's cabinet. The Black Caps did add another in 2021 — beating India in the World Test Championship final at Southampton. In between, the Men in Blue were stopped in their tracks at the semifinal stage of the 2019 Cricket World Cup, losing a two-day rain-affected semifinal to New Zealand at Manchester.

There have been a handful of other vital clashes between the two sides — in 2021, New Zealand knocked India out of the T20 World Cup. In 2023, India returned the favor — beating New Zealand in the semifinal at Mumbai, denying them a third straight final appearance in the Cricket World Cup. **AP**

India's head coach Gautam Gambhir with captain Rohit Sharma and player Virat Kohli during the practice session ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy final match against New Zealand in Dubai on Saturday; New Zealand's players warm up during a practice session

Gill Dismisses Rohit, Virat's retirement talk, backs India to handle pressure in final

Amidst rising speculation over the ODI futures of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli post the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, India's vice-captain Shubman Gill made it clear that no retirement discussions are taking place in the Indian dressing room.

While cricketing circles speculate that Rohit and Kohli—two of India's modern-day batting greats—could call time on their ODI careers if India lifts the trophy, Gill emphasized the team's focus remains solely on winning the title.

Speaking ahead of India's high-stakes final against New Zealand on Sunday, Gill dismissed the retirement chatter, stating, "There is no talk about retirement in the dressing room right now. We have not discussed this at the moment. All the chatter is about winning the match. And what we have to do to win the match. I think Rohit is thinking about the same. I think he is focusing on winning the Champions Trophy first. I think once the match gets over tomorrow, he will take a call, but I have not heard of this from anyone in the team," Shubman said in the press conference.

Reflecting on India's strong batting unit, Gill heaped praise on the experience and depth within the squad.

This is the best batting lineup I have been a part of. Rohit is one of the best openers in the world; Virat, we don't need to say much about him –Shubman Gill

"This is the best batting lineup I have been a part of. Rohit is one of the best openers in the world, and as for Virat, we don't need to say much about him. But our team's depth allows the top order to play with more freedom," he said.

Gill, India's most prolific ODI batter over the last two years, acknowledged the importance of capitalizing on big-match opportunities.

"It is very important to make an impact in big matches. As a batter, you want to do that in every game, but it's impossible to score a 50 or 100 every time. In big games, you try to give yourself a few extra balls before playing your shots," he added.

India's loss in the 2023 ODI World Cup final against Australia still lingers in fans' minds, but Gill believes the team has learned from that experience and is determined to go one step further this time.

"We are all excited for the final. Last time, we couldn't win the 50-over World Cup, but we are determined to get the job done this time," he said.

Acknowledging the pressure of a high-stakes game, Gill stressed the importance of staying composed.

"There will be big-match pressure, but whichever team handles it better will win the final. We just need to treat it like any other match. We have played four games here and done well, so there is no added pressure on us," he explained.

When asked about India's recent struggles in ICC finals, Gill suggested that once a team wins a major trophy, the weight of expectations eases.

"Once you get one title and break the jinx, you are no longer desperate to win the next one. Desperation is not a good thing. I'm not saying we aren't hungry—we are—but we are not desperate," he stated.

Beyond individual performances, Gill highlighted the importance of team camaraderie in high-pressure situations.

"We do not focus on individual mistakes, but on how we can collectively take the pressure off each other. Helping a teammate is as important as scoring a hundred or taking five wickets. You might not see these things on the field, but they contribute a lot to success," he said.**–IANS**

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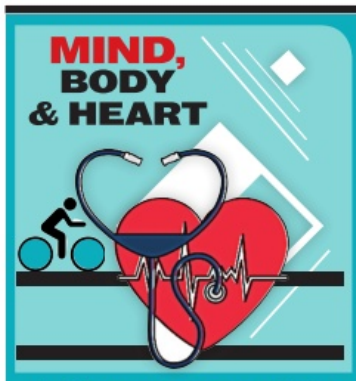
HEALTH TIP: Consuming honey right before bedtime can help you burn more calories during the early hours of sleep

Coriander stimulates digestive enzymes and juices, which are known to enhance our digestive system



All you need to know about...

Portion control

If you have ever followed a vigorous diet plan, you may have experienced some common symptoms such as nausea, hypertension, high palpitations, excess sweating and so on. However, as per science and many who have lost a great amount of weight, portion control is one method which has neither harmed their health or their weight loss plan.

Benefits

You learn how to calculate calories and decide your meals. It is important to understand what goes on your plate with prior planning. Not only does it make you aware about what you eat but also helps you in getting a deep understanding of what suits your body and what doesn't.

Through portion control you are able to achieve discipline in your eating habits.

Good start

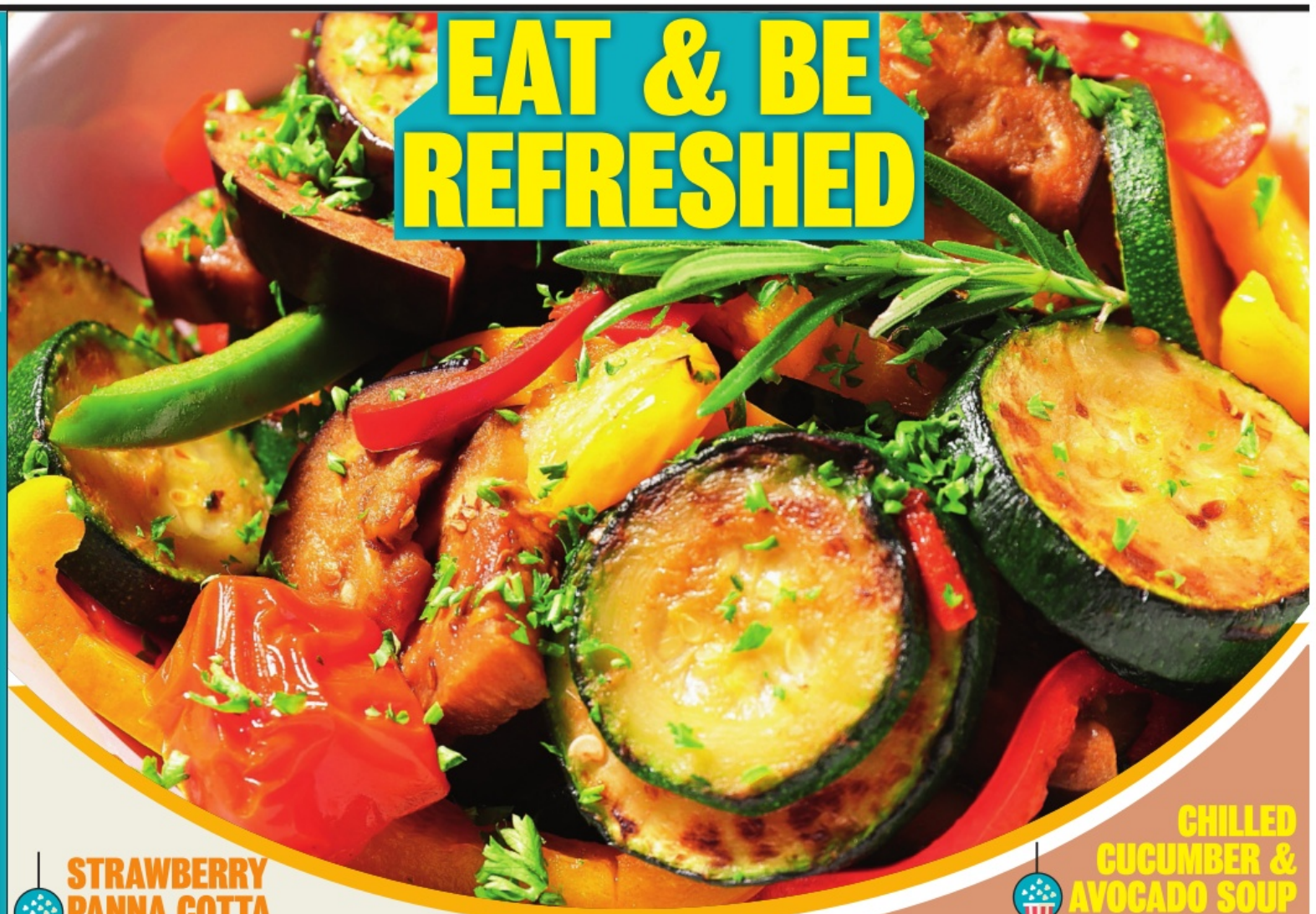
Portion control is also a great way to begin your weight loss journey. This is because through portion control you will be able to get rid of your addictions for unhealthy foods at odd times.

Portion control also ensures an adequate intake of calories. When you know your calorie requirement as per your weight, you also know how to control your eating habits. This means that you are not completely leaving food in order to lose weight but are making sure that along with exercise enough fuel is going in your body to run it. Nutritional deficiency contributes to weight gain and portion control helps counter that.

Portion control also leads to reduced food cravings. Once you start practicing portion control, your cravings for unnecessary foods also diminish. If you have been feeling bloated lately, portion control is your answer.

—Femina

EAT & BE REFRESHED



STRAWBERRY PANNA COTTA

INGREDIENTS

For the Strawberry Gelatin (Bottom & Top Layers)
● Gelatin Powder – 10 g (0.01 kg) ● Fresh Strawberries – 100 g (puree) ● Sugar – 10 g ● Water – 50 ml For the Panna Cotta (Middle Layer)● Milk – 100 ml ● Vanilla Essence – 3 ml ● Caster Sugar – 20 g ● Amul Cream – 62.6 g For Garnish
● Fresh Strawberries – 20 g (sliced) ● Green Crumble – 1 g

METHOD

- Step 1: Prepare the Strawberry Gelatin Mixture (Used for Bottom & Top Layers)
- Step 2: Blend the Strawberries:
- Puree 100 g of fresh strawberries until smooth.
- Step 3: Dissolve the Gelatin:
- Heat 50 ml of water until warm (not boiling).
- Stir in 10 g of plain gelatin powder and let it bloom for 5 minutes. • Mix in 10 g of sugar and stir until dissolved. • Step 4: Combine & Mix: Add the strawberry puree to the dissolved gelatin and stir well. • Keep aside for molding.
- Step 5: Molding the Layers: Bottom Strawberry Gelatin Layer
- Pour half of the prepared strawberry gelatin mixture into the serving mold/glass.
- Refrigerate for 30–45 minutes until set.
- Middle Panna Cotta Layer
- Heat the Milk & Cream:
- In a saucepan, heat milk, cream, caster sugar, and vanilla essence over low heat.
- Stir continuously until the sugar dissolves (do not boil).
- Pour over the set gelatin layer and refrigerate for 2–3 hours until firm.
- Top Strawberry Gelatin Layer
- Once the panna cotta is set, pour the remaining strawberry gelatin mixture over it.
- Refrigerate for another 1–2 hours until fully set
- Step 5: Molding the Layers:Final Touches: Garnish with fresh strawberry slices and green crumble. Serve chilled and enjoy!

Recipe from BLR Brewing Co

These recipes are like a touch of a cool summer breeze

GRILLED SUMMER VEGETABLE SALAD

INGREDIENTS

● Zucchini (sliced): 1 ● Yellow Squash (sliced): 1 ● Red Bell Pepper (cut into strips): 1 ● Cherry Tomatoes (halved): 1 cup ● Red Onion (sliced): ½ ● Olive Oil: 2 tbsp ● Salt & Black Pepper: 1 tsp ● Garlic Powder: 1 tsp ● Chili Flakes (optional): ½ tsp ● Crumbled Feta Cheese: ¼ cup ● Balsamic Vinegar: 2 tbsp ● Fresh Basil Leaves (for garnish)

METHOD

- Preheat the grill to medium heat.
- . Toss zucchini, squash, bell pepper, and onion with olive oil, salt, pepper, and garlic powder.
- Grill for 3–5 minutes per side until slightly charred and tender.
- Transfer to a salad bowl, add cherry tomatoes and crumbled feta.
- Drizzle with balsamic vinegar, toss gently, and garnish with basil.
- Serve warm or at room temperature.

CHILLED CUCUMBER & AVOCADO SOUP

INGREDIENTS

● Large Cucumber (peeled and chopped): 1 ● Ripe Avocado: 1 ● Plain Yogurt (or Coconut Milk for Vegan): 1 cup ● Garlic Clove (minced): 1 ● Lemon Juice: 1 tbsp ● Salt: ½ tsp ● Black Pepper: ¼ tsp ● Water (adjust as needed): ½ cup ● Fresh Dill or Mint (for garnish)

METHOD

- Blend cucumber, avocado, yogurt, garlic, lemon juice, salt, and pepper until smooth.
- Add water gradually to adjust consistency.
- Chill for 30 minutes before serving.
- Garnish with fresh dill or mint and serve cold.

Recipes from Executive Chef, Rahul Istwal, Angsana Oasis Spa & Resort, Bangalore

Lifetime Achievement Award
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday congratulated actress Shabana Azmi for being selected for the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 16th Bengaluru International film festival

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Long time, now see

Shahid, Kareena catch up during event, fans thrilled

Shahid Kapoor and Kareena Kapoor Khan stole the spotlight with their unmissable reunion during an event in Jaipur, which was also graced by Karan Johar, Kartik Aaryan, Kriti Sanon, and Madhuri Dixit. Just a few minutes after their video of hugging each other on stage went viral online, a glimpse of the 'Jab We Met' stars has now surfaced, showing them engaged in a deep conversation.

In the recent video shared by paparazzi online, Kareena Kapoor is seen asking Shahid something, to which he responds with happiness and a vibrant smile. They both burst into laughter after discussing something on stage. Even though people could not discern what they were talking about with such enthusiasm, the moment stole hearts online. Netizens were delighted to witness the much-awaited reunion of the 'Jab We Met' duo after years.

One of their fans shared the clip on X (formerly Twitter) with the caption, "Omg, the nostalgic Geet and Aditya feels that Kareena and Shahid are giving in this video." Another social media user was curious to know what they were discussing in the clip, writing, "I wanna know what they're talking about." Finally, one reacted, "We will also grow up and be all mature and all like this."

Kareena Kapoor and Shahid dated for a few years before parting ways. Shahid married Mira Rajput in 2015, while Kareena tied the knot with Saif Ali Khan in 2012. Shahid and Kareena's on-screen chemistry as Aditya and Geet from the 2007 romantic drama 'Jab We Met' remains memorable to fans. **—ETimes**

APPLE CUT
2.5 RATING
- **DIRECTOR** Sindhu Gowda
- **ACTORS** Surya Gowda, Ashwini Polepali, Appanna Ramdurga, Amrutha Pawar, Bala Rajwadi
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 104 minutes

Sindhu Gowda, the daughter of director Raj Kishore, debuts as a director in Sandalwood with this movie. Though a flawless film may be too much to ask for in a maiden attempt, but the way this movie has turned out, we wished Sindhu had waited for a while before plunging into direction. It is surprising to see a woman director showcasing women in a poor light. For example, the movie has a woman (the hero's mother) who is described as somebody with loose morals. The movie also has another female character with similar shades.

The movie is about four youngsters- Satya (Surya Gowda), an anthropology professor, and medical students Aradhya (Ashwini Polepali), Rahul (Appanna Ramdurga), and Jahnavi (Amrutha Pawar), who attend a bachelor party. Rahul catches his girlfriend Jahnavi in bed with another person. Later, Jahnavi is found dead. Kanakapura Circle Police Inspector Sampath (Bala Rajwadi) suspects Rahul is behind the murder. At this juncture, Aradhya finds some strange material in her boyfriend Satya's room. What happens to Satya and who is the psychopath is what Apple Cut is all about.

Surya Gowda debuts as a hero in Sandalwood with this movie. He has to go a long way to establish himself as an actor. He looks tired and stoic in most of the scenes. It is not clear how a veteran character actor like Bala Rajawadi agreed to play a circle police inspector who looks like a joker and an idiot. It is tougher to imagine a circle police inspector criticising the Commissioner of Police in front of a head police constable. Audiences will come out of the theater wondering why the director showcases police in such a pitiable condition.

All in all, we suggest you go for this movie only if you have no other plans. **—Y Maheswara Reddy**

Keep it regal
Shilpa Shetty radiates regal elegance in an embroidered ivory saree

Watch this story come alive by pointing your phone camera at the QR code

Lady Gaga reveals her 'biggest fear'

Singer-actress Lady Gaga has revealed her "biggest fear", which is being alone. The pop star, who is one of the best-selling artists of all time, shared that she felt isolated in the early years of her music career.

The 38-year-old 'Alejandro' hitmaker, who is engaged to tech entrepreneur Michael Polansky, told the BBC: "I think my biggest fear was doing this by myself - doing life on my own. And I think that the greatest gift has been meeting my partner, Michael, and being in the mayhem with him."

In recent years, the singer has realised that she doesn't need to have a "dividing line" between her personal and professional lives, reports femalefirst.co.uk. The chart-topping singer, who released her debut album, 'The Fame', back in 2008 - explained: "I think what I actually realised is that it's healthier to not have a dividing line and to integrate those two things into one whole human being. "I am a lover of songwriting. I'm a lover of making music, of rehearsing, choreography, stage production, costumes, lighting, putting on a show. That is what it means to be Lady Gaga. It's the artist behind it all."

Gaga thinks her new album, 'Mayhem', to be another landmark moment in her career, with the singer believing that she's reclaimed ownership of her music. She shared: "When I was younger, people tried take credit for my sound, or my image (but) all of my references, all of my imagination of what pop music could be, came from me. "**—IANS**

RANBIR RIPPED

Ranbir Kapoor is currently shooting for Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Love And War'. It also stars Alia Bhatt and Vicky Kaushal. While this looks like a love triangle, fans are damn excited for it. Ranbir and Alia are set to team up after 'Brahmastra' and fans are excited to see this off-screen pair, on-screen again. It seems like Ranbir is undergoing a very intense training for the film. His trainer shared a photo of him acing the front lever pull-up.

The actor is seen in a shirtless avatar, flaunting his chiseled body and the internet is left gushing over him. The photo was shared with the caption, "Airplane mode on #trainingwithnam #frontlever #calisthenics #airplanemode #ranbirkapoor." Fans dropped heart and fire emojis on this picture. A user said, "Insane!!!" Another fan commented, "TABAHIIIIII."

A few months ago, Ranbir was at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which was held in Goa. He spoke about 'Love And War' and re-uniting with Sanjay Leela Bhansali after his debut film 'Saawariya'. He had said, "I am extremely excited. He is my godfather. Everything I know about films, everything I know about acting, it is something I learnt from him." He further added, "He hasn't changed at all. He is extremely hard-working. All he thinks about is his movies. He just wants to speak about the character, he wants you to create, do something different." **— ETimes**

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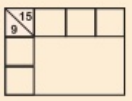
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

(89! – 88!) / 88! = ?

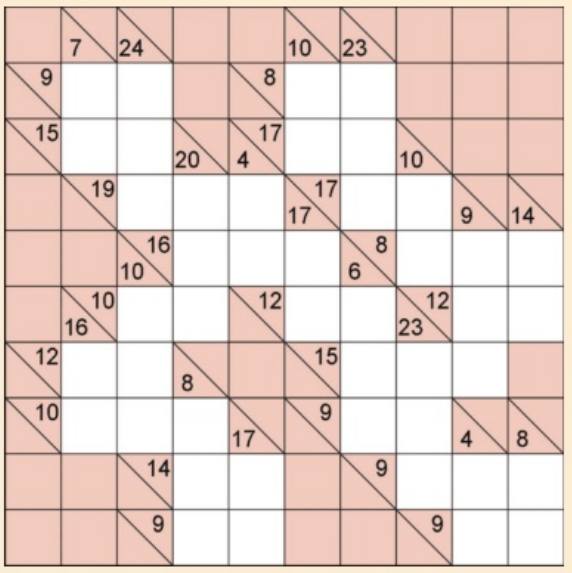
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

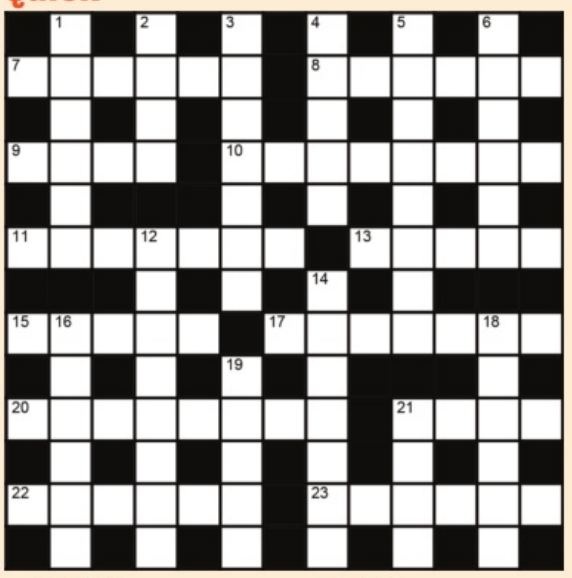


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Symbol or insignia (6)
8 In slow time, musically speaking (6)
9 Legal right (4)
10 Substitutes (8)
11 Pettifogger (7)
13 Sheriff's men (5)
15 Grown-up (5)
17 Colossal (7)
20 Australian state (8)
21 In case (4)
22 Reduce to a lower grade (6)
23 Royal city in Karnataka (6)

DOWN

1 Mischievous, elfish (6)
2 Actor Alda (4)
3 Came out (7)
4 Greek letter (5)
5 Sunshades (8)
6 Two-footed animals (6)
12 Answer (8)
14 M in M G Road (7)
16 Chauffeur (6)
18 Church room (6)
19 Fish basket (5)
21 Endure (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: B EQUALS H

BS OBG VGTYZGHX YBS RGTSK XNCCHK GQ P TPYLGT VG-TYZGHX YBS TPYLGT.

Linemaro

Was your father an alien? 'cause on earth there is nothing like you

Mindchow

A cat looks down on man, a dog looks up to man, but a pig will look man right in the eye and see his equal

Joke of the day

The senility prayer: God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones that I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference

Loop

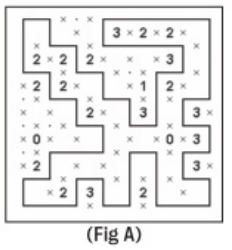
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

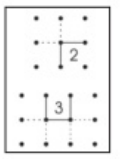
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

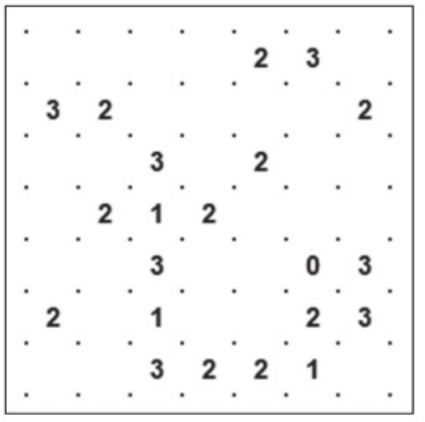
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



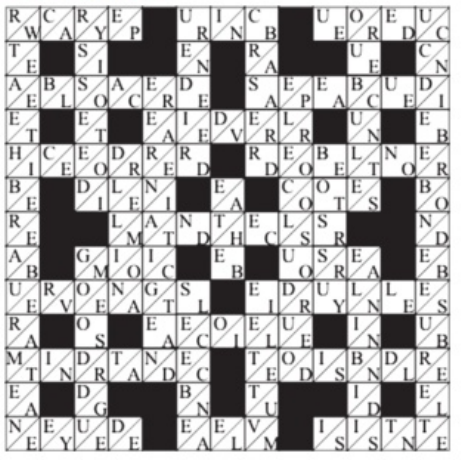
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



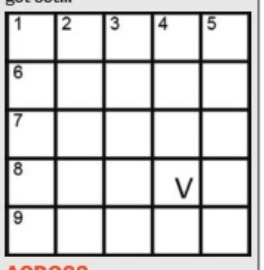
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Leafs; 6 I'm duo;
7 A oven; 8 Verdi;
9 Runed

DOWN

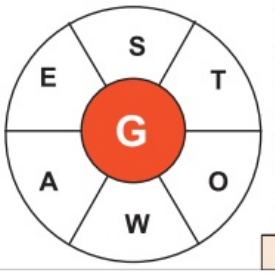
1 Found; 2 Radon;
3 IV lid; 4 Uveas;
5 Me ere

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

7	12	8
1	4	6
3	11	11
9	11	5
12	13	?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; 08 Good; 10 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

7	5		1		4		3	8
				3				
		3	5		8	4		
9			3		2			5
	8						7	
3			4		7			9
		9	2		5	6		
				4				
5	7		8		6		9	2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

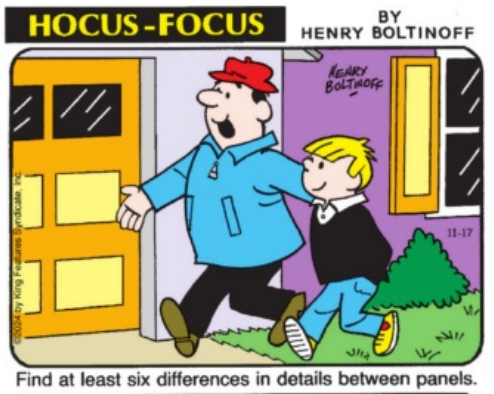
Easy = 16
2 4 7 7

Medium = 9
3 5 5 6

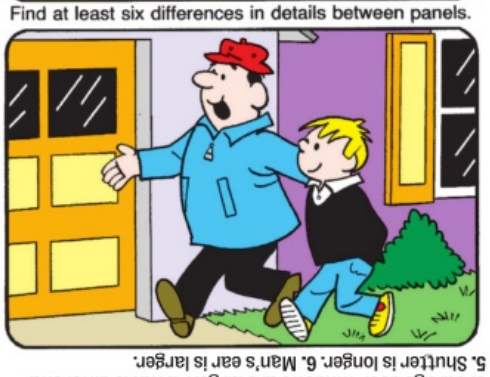
Hard = 13
2 5 6 7

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



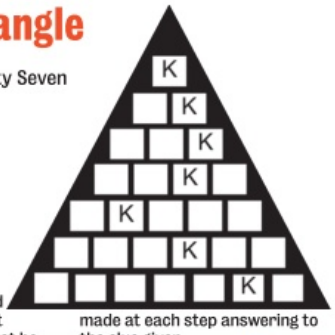
Differences: 1. Boy's hair is different. 2. Arm is different. 3. Garage door windows are larger. 4. Hat is different. 5. Shutter is longer. 6. Man's ear is larger.

Riddler

A gambler goes to bet. The dealer has 3 dice, which are fair, meaning that the chance that each face shows up is exactly 1/6. The dealer says: "You can choose your bet on a number, any number from 1 to 6. Then I'll roll the 3 dice. If none show the number you bet, you'll lose $1. If one shows the number you bet, you'll win $1. If two or three dice show the number you bet, you'll win $3 or $5, respectively." Is it a fair game?

Alpha triangle

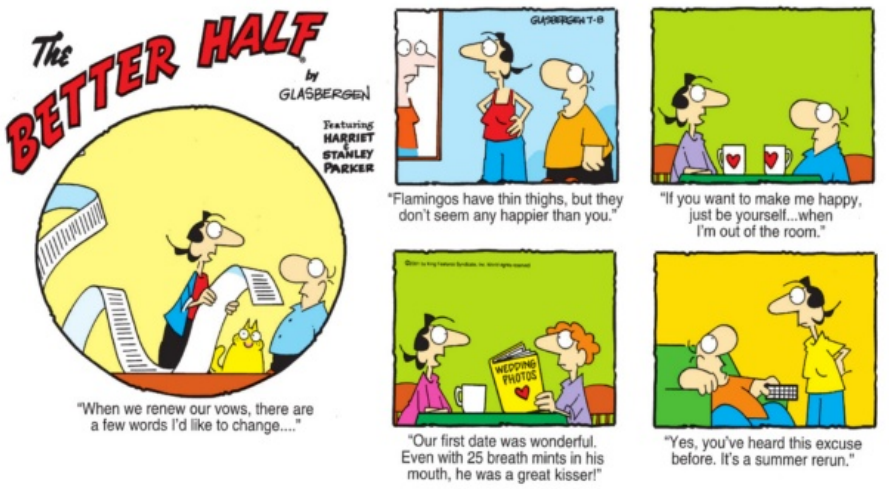
1 Kingly letter!
2 Machine gun_Forty Seven
3 Inquire of
4 Account, behalf
5 Czar's decree
6 Trembles
7 Narrow escapes



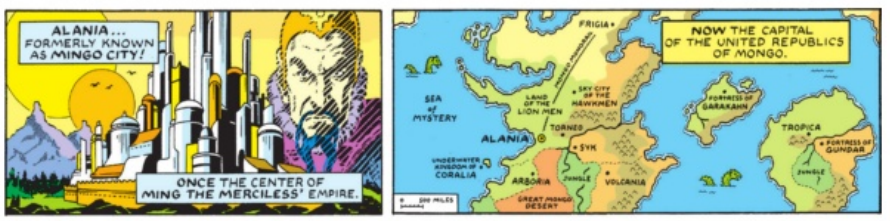
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

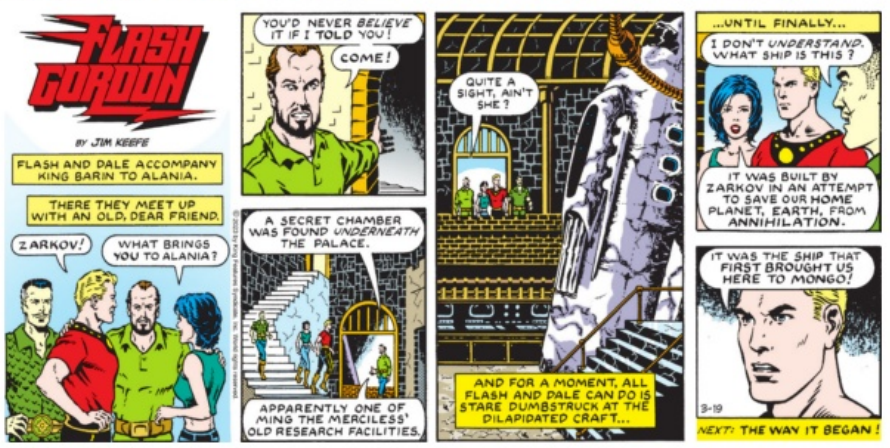
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"When we renew our vows, there are a few words I'd like to change...."
"Flamingos have thin thighs, but they don't seem any happier than you."
"If you want to make me happy, just be yourself...when I'm out of the room."
WEDDING PHOTOS
"Our first date was wonderful. Even with 25 breath mints in his mouth, he was a great kisser!"
"Yes, you've heard this excuse before. It's a summer rerun."

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
BYE, MOM!
I'LL BE BACK BY FOUR-THIRTY.
OR IT MIGHT BE EARLIER IF I'M LIMPING, SCRATCHED, SCRAPED, BRUISED, CUT, DISLOCATED OR UNCONSCIOUS.
WEAR YOUR HELMET!
I WILL!
FOOTBALL SCRIMMAGE?
MONOPOLY WITH ZOE AND HER FRIENDS.




FLASH GORDON
BY JIM KEEFE
FLASH AND DALE ACCOMPANY KING BARIN TO ALANIA.
THERE THEY MEET UP WITH AN OLD, DEAR FRIEND.
ZARKOV!
WHAT BRINGS YOU TO ALANIA?
YOU'D NEVER BELIEVE IT IF I TOLD YOU!
COME!
A SECRET CHAMBER WAS FOUND UNDERNEATH THE PALACE.
APPARENTLY ONE OF MING THE MERCILESS' OLD RESEARCH FACILITIES.
QUITE A SIGHT, AIN'T SHE?
AND FOR A MOMENT, ALL FLASH AND DALE CAN DO IS STARE DUMBSTRUCK AT THE DILAPIDATED CRAFT...
...UNTIL FINALLY...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT SHIP IS THIS?
IT WAS BUILT BY ZARKOV IN AN ATTEMPT TO SAVE OUR HOME PLANET, EARTH, FROM ANNIHILATION.
IT WAS THE SHIP THAT FIRST BROUGHT US HERE TO MONGO!
NEXT: THE WAY IT BEGAN!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
The Moon's influence brings relief from chronic health issues and a sense of happiness. It's an ideal time to restart postponed projects, with business gains likely. Your hard work may be rewarded, and a peaceful journey for work or religious purposes could be on the horizon.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You may feel low today, with possible health concerns. Financial losses are possible, so avoid risky investments and unnecessary spending. Be cautious in financial dealings and steer clear of controversies to avoid negative consequences.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
The Moon's blessings bring love and harmony into your personal life. Singles may find a suitable match. Professionally, you will perform well, with support from colleagues and friends boosting your success.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Confidence will reflect in your work, giving you an edge over competitors. Your focus on goals remains strong, and your health will be stable. However, avoid unnecessary arguments at home to maintain domestic harmony.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Positive energy enhances your reputation among peers. You may engage in intellectual pursuits and consider higher studies. A sense of happiness and fulfilment will accompany your efforts.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
A sluggish day may impact your productivity, but blessings from elders will help you regain focus. Pay close attention to your children's health. Investors should be cautious, and digestive issues may arise.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
A productive day at work awaits, with key decisions made today proving beneficial in the long run. A short trip is possible. Support from subordinates and positive news about a sibling's success will bring joy. Legal matters may be resolved in your favor, and students will stay focused

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Strong communication skills will enhance your professional growth. A polite and cooperative approach will help you complete projects efficiently. Lovebirds will have meaningful conversations that strengthen their bond.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
The Moon's blessings bring success in new partnerships and an energy boost. Hard work and enthusiasm will result in financial gains. Maintaining self-respect will help you stay away from negativity.

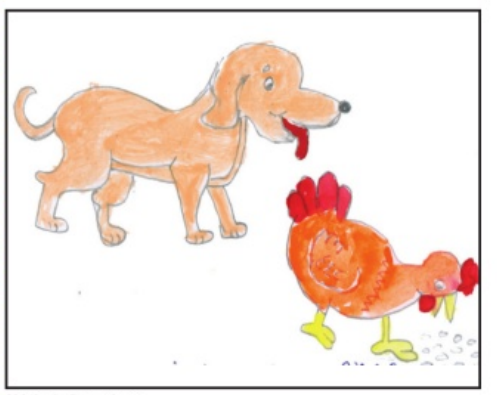
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You may feel low or unappreciated today. Avoid harsh conversations with family and friends, as expectations may not be met. Trust your intuition, practice patience, and avoid making impulsive decisions.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
New sources of income may open up, and past investments could yield good returns, boosting financial stability. Connecting with a social organization may expand your network. Singles may find a potential life partner.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Blessings from elders will boost your confidence. Trusting your intuition will lead to professional and financial success. A visit to a religious place with family is likely. However, maintaining humility will be essential for peace in personal life. Students can expect favourable results.

KIDZONE

Janya V, Bengaluru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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= (89*88! – 88!) / 88!
= (89*88! / 88! – 88!) / 88!
= 89-1 = 88

BULL'S EYE
gate, goat, sage, stag, stage, STOWAGE, swag, toga, towage, wage

FAST FIVE

F	A	L	S	E
O	D	I	U	M
N	O	V	A	E
D	R	I	V	E
U	N	D	E	R

QUOTE UNCODE He who controls the money supply of a nation controls the nation.

STRIKE OUT

W	A	R	P	R	I	B	U	R	D	U				
E		I		E		A		E		N				
A	B	O	A	R	D		S	P	A	C	E	D		
T		T	E	I	D	E	R		U		E			
H	E	E	D	E	D		D	E	B	T	O	R		
E		D	E	N		A		C	O	S		O		
R		M	A	N	T	E	L	S				N		
B		G	O	C		E		U	S	A		E		
A		O		E	C	O	L	E		I	B	L	E	
T	I	R	A	D	E		E	D	I	B	L	E		
E		G		N		U		I				L		
N	E	E	D		E	L	M		I	S	N	T		

QUICK

														Y
												T	A	
											M	Y	S	O
										L	E	S	T	
									I	A				
								O	R	I	C	T	O	V
							H							
						C		U				R		
					M		L							
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			G		A		S							
		R		N		L		A		T				
	E		M		B		L		E		M		B	
		P		A		E		P		R		P		
	L		I		E		N		R	E	P	L	A	C

MENSA PUZZLE
4. Working in rows, add the left and right hand values together and subtract 3 to give the number in the centre of each row.

RIDDLER It's a fair game. If there are 6 gamblers, each of whom bet on a different number, the dealer will neither win nor lose on each deal.

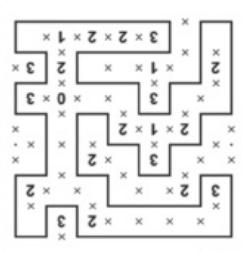
SUDOKU

7	5	6	1	2	4	9	3	8
8	4	1	7	3	9	5	2	6
2	9	3	5	6	8	4	1	7
9	6	7	3	8	2	1	4	5
4	8	5	6	9	1	2	7	3
3	1	2	4	5	7	8	6	9
1	3	9	2	7	5	6	8	4
6	2	8	9	4	3	7	5	1
5	7	4	8	1	6	3	9	2

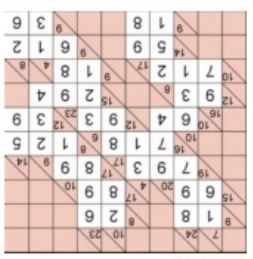
ALPHA TRIANGLE
K, AK, Ask, Sake, Ukase, Quakes, Squeaks.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 7 + 7 – 2 = 16
Medium
6 – 5 + 3 + 5 = 9
Hard
2 x 7 – 6 + 5 = 13

LOOP



KAKURO



Volume No 18, Issue No 010 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22325 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore – 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru – 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon – responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

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NOTHING

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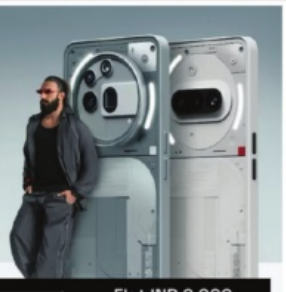

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